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SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING*

Second Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

S. NO 1582 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF POP-UP BICYCLE LANES AND EMERGENCY PATHWAYS FOR USE DURING THE DURATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
(*In Substitution of S.B. Nos. 1518, and in consideration of P.S.R. 411*)

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Referred to: Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking

Key words: safe pathways, local government units, bicycles, non-motorized vehicles

This bill proposes to create a network of pop-up bicycle lanes and people-oriented emergency pathways in local government units (LGUs) and thus, shall be known as the *Safe Pathways Act*.

The pathways are intended for non-motorized vehicles and alternative transport modes such as bicycles. This is in line with the need for physical distancing and limited mobility, amid the lack of public transport in the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

These lanes, while intended for non-motorized vehicles may accommodate electric scooters, electric tricycles, and similar transport modes subject to guidelines to be set by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and other agencies. These pathways shall directly connect users like essential and front line workers to medical facilities and other private and public places.

The bill also mandates the provision of adequate parking spaces for non-motorized vehicles in all public places, government offices, and major commercial establishments. To promote the use of non-motorized transport modes, public and private sectors are also instructed to develop necessary infrastructure facilities and programs for implementation. Such facilities include showers, changing areas and hydration spaces and equipment.

* LRS publishes summarized information of Senate bills under consideration for second reading in the Second Regular Session, 18th Congress. The annual budget (General Appropriations Act); tax, banking and finance, and other bills which are predominantly fiscal in nature will not be included in the LRS reports.

This measure also provides that DOTr, DILG, and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with relevant agencies, shall prepare to permanently adopt the safe pathways measure, as appropriate. In line with this, the DPWH is instructed to revise its manuals and guidelines for road design and construction to include the aspect of safety for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicle users; and to consider the allocation of road space for non-motorized vehicles on national and local roads.

The DOTr, and DPWH in coordination with the LGUs, shall be in charge of the identification and creation of these pathways. The LGUs shall issue the necessary measures for the adoption and implementation of this measure.

(Summary prepared by: Ma. Trinidad D. Llorito, 12 August 2020)

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